

## Maggie Brooks

## Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release Wednesday, December 15, 2004

## BROOKS CALLS ON PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO APPLY MODEL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Joined by leaders of Monroe County's four largest public authorities, Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today called on all local authorities to apply a series of model governance principles to their organizations. The principles, which were developed by the Governor's Public Authority Governance Advisory Committee, provide a framework for authorities to implement improvements to 7 areas of organization, management and governance.

"Monroe County residents depend on public authorities to do important work -- from operating the Airport and Frontier Field, to providing safe drinking water and affordable public transportation," said Brooks. "By applying these principles to their governance structures, our local authorities will be holding themselves to the highest possible standards of openness and accountability."

Brooks stated that she is counting on the four largest local authorities – the Water Authority, Airport Authority, Sports Authority and the RGRTA – to lead the way in applying the model governance principles. Brooks noted that the Water Authority and RGRTA have already taken steps to incorporate measures based on these principles into their governing structures.

The Monroe County Water Authority Board of Directors is expected to consider a proposal to implement guidelines based on the principles at their upcoming board meeting. In addition, most of the recommendations are already in place at the RGRTA, which has plans underway to implement the remaining recommendations.

"I believe that these steps will strengthen our local authorities, making them more accountable, more accessible and more effective," said Brooks. "This is an opportunity for leadership and we have to seize it to ensure our local authorities remain the gold standard in New York State."